

VALIANT



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VALIANT VOICE



IT'S SHADOWMAN MONTH!!!

VALIANT.



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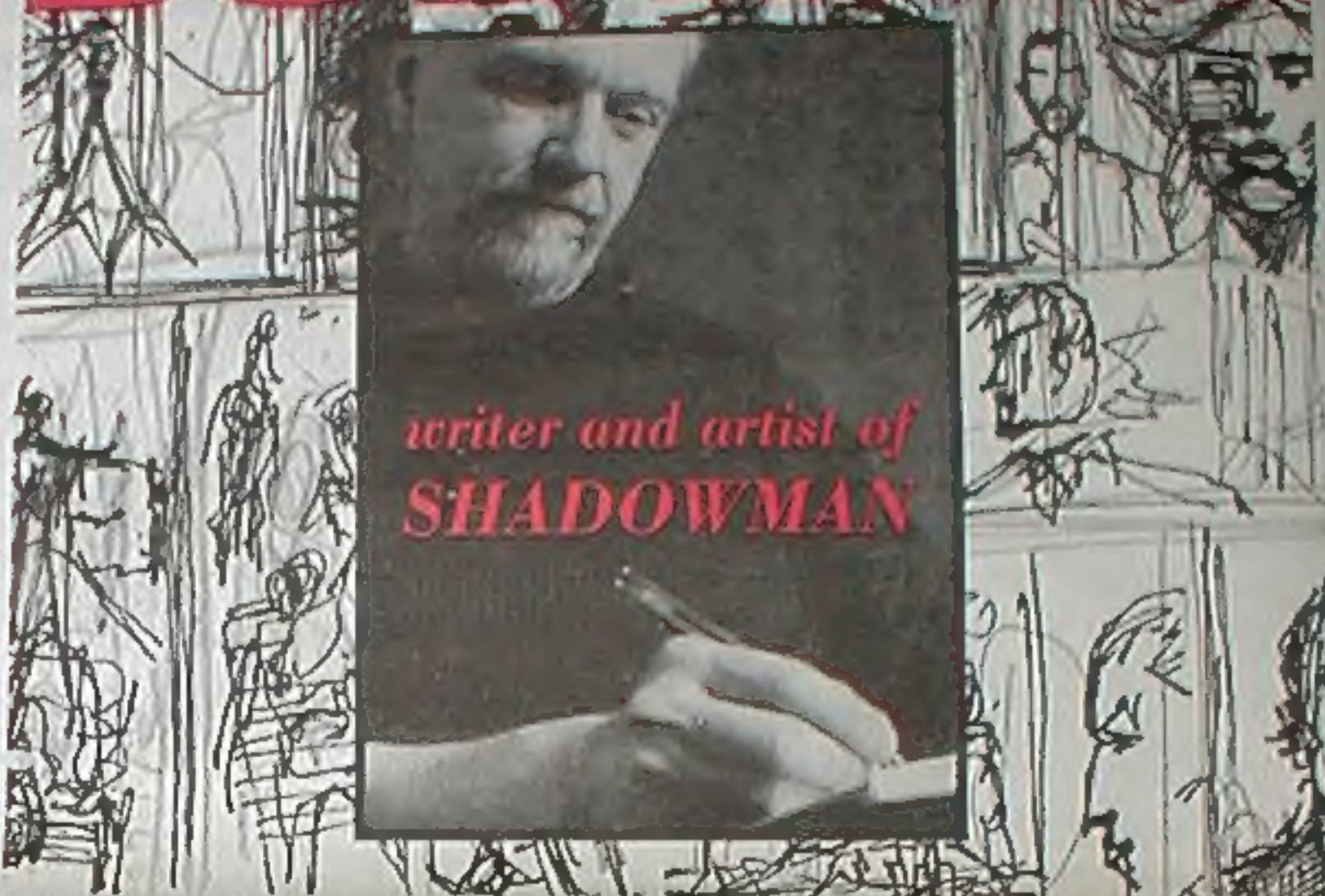
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conversation sketches with

BOB HALL



writer and artist of
SHADOWMAN

There are many reasons for the excitement and anticipation in the air at the VALIANT offices what with the holiday season and the approaching New Year. But, what may be the most compelling reason of all, the arrival of Bob Hall and his concurrent move from San Francisco to the Big Apple. This is a tremendous event for the company — Bob Hall is one of the top artists in the business. His writing and pencilling of VALIANT's SHADOWMAN has made him a person everyone wants to talk to.

Bob Hall is having his picture taken. He is friendly and warm with the photographer, taking direction well. He is comfortable with the camera and it shows. This is a man who, while making a name for himself in the comics world, spent time directing for the stage. He shows a respect for the nature of photography that is indicative of his respect for art as a totality.

We move to an editor's office to escape the tumult characteristic of the VALIANT work environment. Bob notes that this is one of the reasons for his move to New York. "I'm not by nature a loner," he remarks. "I need interaction in terms of work." He continues, "In San Francisco I felt removed from the comic book world. I wanted to participate more in the daily goings-on in the business and at VALIANT. Writing SHADOWMAN was conducive to a life away from the New York office in that he was in the cul-de-sac in the VALIANT Universe." He remarks, "When I chose

Shadowman I knew that he would not have any dealings with Solar and the H.A.R.D. Corps, and that worked. But now I want to delve more into the possibilities of crossovers with the other characters." Says Bob, "There is so much that goes on in the office within the course of a day — stories that are tossed about — that I wanted to be involved."

Shadowman is one of VALIANT's more disturbing characters — dealing with the occult and Jack's split personality. Bob's sees SHADOWMAN as a story that has continued to get weirder throughout its run. "I have a tendency," says Bob, "to take the story to the edge, and then realize I have to pull back and say, 'Okay, let's deal with real people. Fight some crime in New Orleans.' It's a quirky book and easy to get caught up in."

"Let's face it, Jack is a man on the edge," says Bob. "He suffers from an induced schizophrenia. He thinks he's two different people, but knows he is not. It's akin to the mystery of Christianity. 'How can I feel like two different people and at exactly the same time feel like one?'" He continues, "That's the fun of the book. Getting inside the head of someone going through that kind of torture." The balance though, would seem hard to maintain. Which side of the personality is more in control? "Well, that is totally dependent on the circumstances. I see Jack as a modern day Jekyll and Hyde. When the adrenaline kicks in Jack is

able to handle things, but not necessarily in the most rational of ways. Without the Jack side, Shadowman would be a man out of control. A lunatic." He adds, "That is evident in the current book where he's beating someone, pulls back and says, 'Stop. I can't do this.' The human sensibility kicks in."

SHADOWMAN #0 gives Bob the opportunity to delve deeper into the origin of what and who Shadowman is. "I've done a lot to hint at what has happened to Jack," says Bob, "without really doing an origin book. It was time to shed some light on what the readers thought they saw in issue #1 — and what really happened."

"The story focuses on the 1800's incarnation of Shadowman, Maxim St. James," remarks Bob. "He is a gambler — a Black Maverick-type, who lives in the red light district of Storyville, Louisiana. We reveal how his Shadowman persona is invoked by Nettle and the voodoo coven to combat Darque. And, how the coven is able to create a Shadowman as a symbiotic entity to battle the Darque power." He adds, "The present Shadowman is not a relative of the 19th-century one. Maxim and the coven are able to control and neutralize Darque and subsequently he goes into hiding. He surfaces in the 20th-century spurred by a mysterious release of necromantic energy to be explained later. The release of necromantic energy has intensified his power. This brings us to the present day and Jack Boniface."

"I like doing the origin of

VOICE MAIL



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VALIANT VOICE™
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275 Seventh Ave.
New York, NY 10001

A FEW LINES FROM WYATT:

Dear VALIANT,

In the course of my junior year of high school, I found myself tripping over an assignment in English. The assignment that was given to me (because we were currently studying the American revolution) was to reiterate the Declaration of Independence on our own terms. Because of my love for VALIANT comic books, you can guess what the first thing that popped into my head was. So here it is, with text, white and (black) all over it.

When, in the course of comic events, it becomes necessary to dissolve the ties, be they political, print quality, weak story lines, or of the lack of necessary evolution, etc. from another form of a comic book, one's conscience rightfully needs to step out from the world and do so, with strength and fortitude. I hereby declare myself free from all bonds instigated by comic book brands other than VALIANT Comics. Friends, Americans, Countrymen...lend me your ears! The time has come to support the only name in the industry worthy of your dollar! Help me to rid the world of unsightly old-school comics, and give heed to the new breed! I know not what course others may take, but as for me, give me VALIANT or give me death!

...I dream VALIANT. I draw VALIANT. I live VALIANT. I smell VALIANT. I taste VALIANT. I sweat VALIANT. I drink VALIANT. And, when I squint just right, I can see VALIANT characters dancing with me...

VALIANT is the only comic company that meets my stringent demands for quality print, plot, reader-grasping ability, and artwork, making it the quintessential comic book.

With utmost sincerity,
Wyatt Does

Well Wyatt, we certainly don't doubt your sincerity! Anyone who views reading VALIANT comics an essential "decla-

ration", anyone who eats, sweats and drinks VALIANT, must surely be a die-hard fan. We're "rightfully proud that we had a hand in the top grade you received for your "Declaration of Independence", and are thrilled that such an upstanding citizen as yourself can derive such pleasure from the VALIANT universe. Oh, and even though we didn't have enough room to print your lyrics, we're sure Mick Jagger would just love your VALIANT rendition of his tune, "Rock 'n' Roll!"

ADULT REEDUCATION

Dear VALIANT:

I am an adult lover of comics who has recently returned to comic collecting. Naturally, I was overwhelmed by the variety of titles and publishers now on the market. Out of sheer curiosity, I purchased the first issue of *THE SECOND LIFE OF DR. MIRAGE* and have since followed with the next two. Needless to say, I'm hooked.

Whereas as a youngster I admired the exciting, flashy superhero types - life is much more complex. I am particularly impressed with the human weaknesses demonstrated by both Huen and Carmen and the thoughtful way we are learning of the intimacy of their relationship. The humor and the passion allow for enjoyment by both my fiancé and myself.

Keep up the outstanding job and I anxiously look forward to the development of the series.

Yours sincerely,
Christopher Corbin

Dear Christopher:

Your enjoyment and understanding of Huen and Carmen on an "adult" level is exactly one of the things we were hoping for. The adventures and dilemmas that Dr. and Mrs. Mirage find them-

selves in can be enjoyed by youngsters and adults alike. However, the "mature" aspect of their relationship - love, intimacy, commitment, and all the work that goes into just keeping a relationship alive, is something most of us can and will eventually relate to as we continue to "grow up." We hope you and your fiancé will derive as much pleasure from Huen and Carmen, as they will continue to derive from each other.

THE LEGACY LIVES ON...

Dear Valiant,

I'm sorry to say that until a month or two ago, I considered your titles "cheesy & lame," and opted for the "cooler" books put out by the Big M and the Big L.

But recently, I got some issues of *HARBINGER*, *SHADOWMAN*, and *X-O MANOWAR* left me from the will of a deceased friend. While such a tragic situation was hard to get through, your adventures helped some of the sad days seem less bitter. I found that VALIANT was a quality company, putting out quality comics, with excellent art and writing. Now several of your titles have replaced some of the "cool" books from other companies on my must-buy list.

It was awful hard deciding which comic to write this letter to. All the titles I read seemed likely candidates. But considering that *X-O MANOWAR* is consistently one of my favorites each month, I chose to drop you this line and let you know that you and the rest of VALIANT have gained a new fan. I greatly respect the work you do to improve this industry.

Thank you for your time and effort,
Heath Lambert

Dear Heath:

We were saddened to hear of the passing of your friend, but very touched to learn that he enjoyed VALIANT so much that he wanted to share our Universe with you. It was especially heartening to hear that our adventures helped get you through the rough times. That is, after all, what comics are all about - escaping from our own lives into those of the imagination. Thanks for letting us know that we succeeded!

VALIANT.



NEWS FLASH

Wyatt Takes Aim!

In celebration of VALIANT's third anniversary, Wyatt has dedicated its March issue entirely to it. This special commemorative issue details the workings of the VALIANT Universe, and offers a glimpse at the people behind the scenes. Interviews include Publisher Steve Meyerson, Editor in Chief Bob Layton, regular Vice President Joe Harris and many of the individuals that have made VALIANT the most talked-about name in the industry. This issue will also be jam-packed with stories every fan has been clamoring to know, including the plan on VALIANT's past, present, and plans for the future.

In an unprecedented move, this deluxe issue offers a companion comic, *THE SECRETS OF THE VALIANT UNIVERSE*. Uniting all of the VALIANT creators in the art and story, this special comic lets the reader in on the secrets never before discussed. What's more, this spectacular issue offers a \$4.95 cover pencilled by that hot artist of *THE SECOND LIFE OF DR. MIRAGE*, Bernard Chang! This must-have for every fan will hit the stands in March. So, get ready!

Hoovers and Shakers

This season for Promotions, two of VALIANT's possible authors (and long time VALIANTers) have made the mighty jump to editor. Jorge González, writer of *X-O MANOWAR* and *ARMORINES*, and Maurice Postenson, writer of *HARBINGER*, have had their hard work pay off and moved up the ladder of success. Maurice's editorial hand will grace the pages of *DR. MIRAGE* and *ETERNAL WARRIOR*, while Jorge will apply his watchful eye to *SOLAR MAN OF THE ATOM* and *BLOODSHOT*. Both men promise not to let the pressure get to them, but early word-of-mouth is that door-to-door delivery of requests is in the works! Good luck guys! In other office happenings, *SHADOWMAN*'s writer/penciller Bob Hall moves his home base to New York (see Bob Hall Interview). We congratulate Bob on the move and welcome him to the concrete jungle.

Traveling Art Tour

Well, this is it. The Traveling Art Tour reaches its final destination for 1993. It has been great. We would like to extend hearty thanks to all the stores and fans that made this tour, which we will continue next year, a success.

December 13 - December 26
Comic Books & Memories
200 James Street
Syracuse, NY 13203
(315) 434-9208

Convention Update!

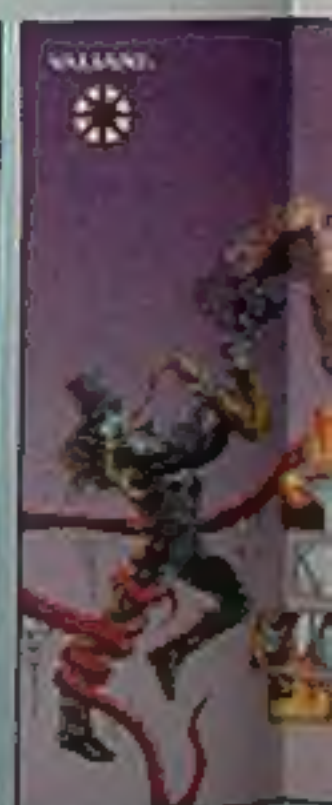
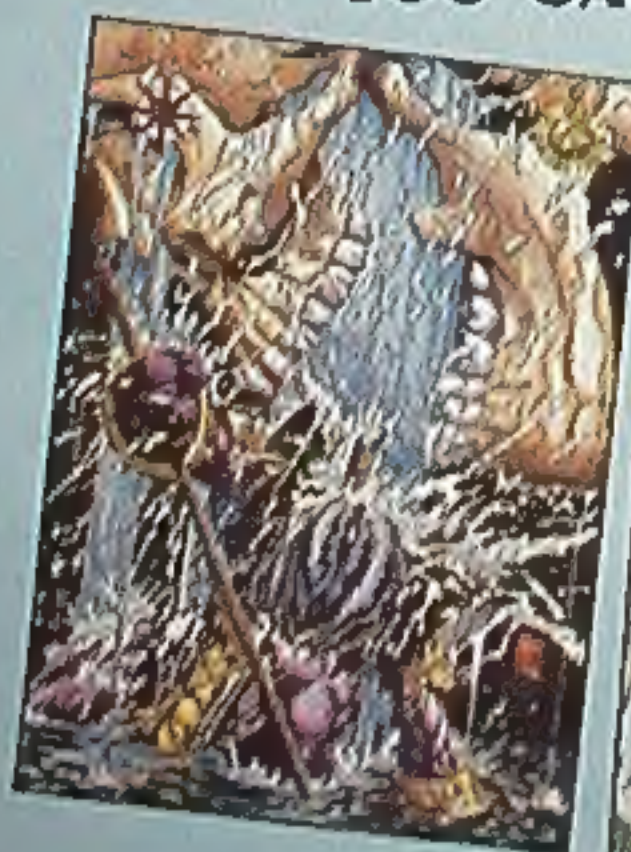
VALIANT will make its first 1994 convention appearance on February 11-13, 1994 at the New York Comic Book Spectacular at the Jacob Javits Convention Center. A full slate of VALIANT artists will be on hand to meet and greet the fans. Watch for more information in next month's VALIANT Voice.

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VALIANT ERATM CARD MONTH!



VALIANT ERATM CARD AVAILABLE IN ANY PACK NOR ANY SET!

AVAILABLE IN ANY PACK NOR ANY SET!

VALIANT[®] comic books shipping in FEBRUARY!



CREATORS' CORNER

NAME:
TOM RYDER

IDENTITY:

Age: 26 (going on 60)

Native of Hudson, NY

Educated at Hartwick College and the Joe Kubert School of Cartooning and Graphic Arts. Inker of

SHADOWMAN, former inker of **X-O MANOWAR**, **H.A.R.D. CORPS** and **MAGNUS ROBOT FIGHTER**.



Having worked his way up through the ranks of "knob row", VALIANT's in-house talent pool, Tom Ryder finds himself currently among the very best inkers in the comics industry. Tom began his career during the earliest days of VALIANT comics, receiving close personal instruction from master inker, Bob Layton. This intense, hands-on training, combined with Tom's natural drawing ability, led to a long and successful run as inker of **X-O MANOWAR**, issues #2-10, 12-13, and 18-25. There are many who feel that Tom's consistent rendering of the characters and armor (despite several penciller changes) was the primary factor in defining the popular "look" of **X-O MANOWAR**. During his long stint on **X-O**, Tom also inked several issues of **THE H.A.R.D. CORPS**. Recently, Tom moved on to **SHADOWMAN** to team up with writer/penciller Bob Hall. With Ryder's eye-catching embellishing over Hall's powerful storytelling, **SHADOWMAN** is set to receive the wide-

An alumnus of the Kubert school, Tom originally came to VALIANT with the intention of becoming a penciller. However, he displayed such a fine touch with a brush and such a deep grasp of rendering texture and lighting, that Layton wisely steered him toward inking. Since then, Ryder's contribution to VALIANT has been subtle, yet immeasurable. His slick and graceful style perfectly complements the work of seasoned pencillers, while his draftsmanship enables him to correct pencilling inconsistencies, making less experienced artists shine. In an industry that often overlooks the contribution of inkers, Tom Ryder has gained the respect and admiration of readers with a keen eye for solid art.

There are many well-known inkers in comics who are content to ride the coattails of "hot" pencillers. Tom, however, desires to accomplish more, and looks forward to the wider acclaim that will inevitably result from joining Bob Hall on **SHADOWMAN**. Once readers get a taste of the new art team in **SHADOWMAN** #0, more fans will realize that Tom Ryder is an artist on par with such well-known inkers as Scott Williams, Joe Rubinstein and Art Thibert. In the future, Tom looks forward to doing more actual pencilling. When his hectic schedule allows, he will be working on both pencilling and inking an upcoming VALIANT Yearbook.



A View from Within

This month, my wife Amy and I experienced the birth of our first child. Born December 7th in Brooklyn, NY, Darren Christopher Sanchez will soon become the youngest honorary production artist. (writing and editing will have to wait a month or two!). Despite my 700 hours of helicopter flight time, and my involvement with VALIANT Comics (which are both very exciting jobs), being in the delivery room and witnessing everything was the most intense moment of my life. I even managed to eat the umbilical cord without passing out. But enough about me — lots of other stuff has happened in the past month as well.

As most of you already know, Joe Quesada and Jimmy Palmiotti (**X-O MANOWAR** #0, **NINJAK**) are two of the hottest artists here at VALIANT and throughout the comic book industry. On November 18th, Joe and Jimmy celebrated their recent success by throwing a Holiday/Hunk you host at the X-Bar in Manhattan. The affair was not only open to VALIANT folks, but to almost all of the New York area comic book professionals. The turnout was even better than expected. Marvel, DC, and Wizard were represented as well. Disposable cameras were abundant, and everyone snapped pictures of just about everything so that the occasion could be well documented. Everyone had such a great time that Joe and Jimmy may decide to make it an annual event. Getting together for parties is nothing new to VALIANT folks; however, having other industry people there made this a rare occasion and one of the more memorable parties of the year.

Did you know that, this time last year, Maurice Fontenot and Jorge Gonzalez were both full-time colorists? Now they are both writing and editing. Maurice writes **HARDINGER** and may soon get another title, while Jorge writes **X-O MANOWAR** and **ARMORINES**. Considering the rapid growth of VALIANT, it will be interesting to see what the New Year will bring for the other denizens of Knob Row.

ADS Darren Sanchez
Production Manager



Our First Family Portrait: Little DARREN CHRISTOPHER here it up for the camera on two very tired parents proudly hold their Christmas bundle of joy. Rumor has it that he will be working in Production this weekend.

JOE & JIMMY'S 1st ANNUAL "BITE ME YA HUMP" PARTY!



Hey, Joe — Thanks for the "comic" relief!!!! It seems that Jorge Gonzalez, writer of **X-O MANOWAR**, **ARMORINES**, (to the right of Joe Q) is just happy to be out of the office — for a change!

Some of the VALIANT Best Pals! (left to right) Robin Klein (Production / Art Editor), Tim Mui (VALIANT Voice Art Director), and trying to dodge the camera — Sean Chen (penciller of **HARDINGER**).

SHADOWMAN now because I want to explore different elements of Jack's life in the continuing series," says Bob. "I've dealt with his personal life in the last few issues by going inside his head. Now I'll deal with his personal life in terms of events that will happen over the next six months." That is a different take on him. We haven't seen any exterior characters...friends in a while. Remarks Bob, "I know. He did have a few friends in the early days. We'll see them again. When he was interacting with the outside world, I saw it as 'Gee, another drug dealer...how far can that go?' I want to find another really concrete villain, maybe a Pablo Escobar-type criminal that returns him to the real world. He should have a quest that is in the here and now."

"I need something to ground him," he says. "SHADOWMAN #0 basically equals the mythic journey he's been on. He comes out of it saying, 'Okay, I'm willing to do this.' But now he has to deal with the real world. Think about it, he's a musician that had one minor hit. His royalties can't be more than \$25,000. He's had to have spent most of that. And he's not getting any work because of his nighttime persona. His apartment is too expensive. Jack will go broke. That's the real world. No job, no money."

This seems to reflect a lot of Bob's life. Moreover, the recent move. "True enough. I use a lot of my life in my writing. Everyone can relate to getting an apartment and thinking they've paid too much. If you can find anything in your life you can stick in a story, you should." He adds, "My favorite comics are those that have a personal feel to them — those that I can relate to. Not biographies, but something that says, 'Hey, That's happened to me.'"

New York is a bastion of stories and interesting people. Fodder for a good story. "Yes. But there are interesting stories everywhere. The time travel guy, Cahn, from SHADOWMAN #21, is a man I met in a restaurant in Lincoln, Nebraska [Bob's home town] named Alvin Harper. He sat down one night and said, 'Would you like me to tell you about all sliding

through time? I'll go to the bathroom, but I'll really think about where I want to be. Back here. And I'll come back before I really even left.' Bob laughs, "This was a very sincere guy in describing how he was able to slip slide through time. No real logic, but a great story nonetheless."

In talking to Bob he frequently remarks on his theater background. "I first came to New York in the '70s in search of work in the theater. But, as it is today, it was difficult to make a living. I tried everything just to avoid waiting tables. I finally landed up taking a class with John Buscema, and fell into comics from there."

"My first love though, is still theater," says Bob. "But there does seem to be some parallel between directing a play and writing a comic book. 'They are very similar,' Bob says, "except in comics the characters don't talk back. I have more control of the elements. But storytelling is storytelling. And more so at VALIANT than at other companies, I feel. Because of the nonuse of the third person narrative it's very much like a play. You need to move the story line forward by the very use of dialogue."

But plays have an ending. A finality that comics don't. "When comics began, it became somewhat banal to have a beginning, middle and end in one issue. I enjoy the freedom of a continuous story." Remarks Bob, "Take for example, Batman. He was always Batman, just under different circumstances. His character was never really allowed to grow. The comic book field has gotten better with continuous story lines. It's reminiscent of a soap opera, in that you can allow the character to change through a period of time."

"The great thing about writing SHADOWMAN and SHADOWMAN #0," says Bob, "is that writing an origin book, after a year of writing the character, allows the clues I have laid down before to lend themselves to bring the character to fruition. Shadowman has, for all intents and purposes, taken on a life of its own, and now I get the opportunity to expand on it." *



SPECIAL BULLETIN

From the desk of Don Porlino

Special thanks to Drew Formerton of New York, NY for his expert advice and help on furnishing invaluable ornament information. Mr. Formerton is the Director of SWATIG (Special Weapons and Tactics Information Group)/Publication Advisory Division, which is based in New York City.

UNITY

Gilad #001, Ed and Magnus arrive.



DAY ONE

Feeling the team from #001 A.D., Bob joins them.



DAY ONE

Gilad, Armstrong, and Archer break off from the main group and begin attacking robots. Gilad, Archer and Armstrong are separated.



DAY ONE

Archer and Armstrong are captured by the Mothergod's servant, Big.



DAY ONE

Archer is questioned by Big, who is a devotee of Archer's philosophy.



DAY TWO

TIMELINE OF THE VALIANT UNIVERSE

Despite Erika's threats to destroy Japan, Ed, John Magnus and Gilad. Consequently, Erika's powers cause Japan to crash into the Indian Ocean, killing millions of Japanese.



DAY ONE

Shadowman arrives in the Lost Land and mistakenly assumes that Sola is the threat. He meets and quickly befriends Elys, who takes him to Central Tower.



DAY ONE

Sola blows his way through Central Tower and confronts Erika one-on-one. During the attack, Shadowman leaps to Erika's aid, nearly killing himself in the process.



DAY ONE

Elys informs Sola that she is pregnant. Sola decides to let out the war for Elys' safety.



DAY TWO

NEXT MONTH:
THE UNITY
TIMELINE
CONTINUES!!!

~COMING THIS MONTH~

JANUARY SPOTLIGHT ON:



SHADOWMAN™ #0 - Deluxe Edition
By Hall, Byler and Cavallaro
\$3.50 U.S./\$4.50 Canadian

At last, learn the true origin of Shadowman and the real story behind how Jack Braddock became the master of the night. **SHADOWMAN #0** is written and pencilled by series regular Bob Hall, with inks provided by Tom Linder. **SHADOWMAN #0** - Deluxe Edition also features a full wraparound chromolith cover (the same type of cover used on **X-O MANOWAR #0** and **NINJAK #1**).

SHADOWMAN™ TRADE PAPERBACK
\$2.95 U.S./\$3.25 Canadian

The perfect bound edition contains four color issues #1, #2, #3 & #4 of the timeless **SHADOWMAN** series. Also included in this poly-bagged package, as a special premium, is "The Darker Passage," an eight-page story that reveals everything you wanted to know about Shadowman's most dangerous villain, but were afraid to read.

SHADOWMAN™ #0 - Regular Edition
By Hall, Byler and Cavallaro
\$2.50 U.S./\$3.00 Canadian

Contains the same great interior art and story as the **SHADOWMAN #0** - Deluxe Edition, but features a standard comic book cover and a lower price.

SHADOWMAN™ #24
By Hall, Byler and Cavallaro
\$2.50 U.S./\$3.00 Canadian

This month, Bob Hall crafts another tale of supernatural suspense as Jack struggles to repay his father's debt to Justice Corps.



ARCHER & ARMSTRONG™ #21
By Boren and McElroy
\$2.50 U.S./\$3.00 Canadian

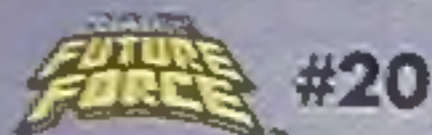
Quint Starring Shadowman: Learning of the monster in London, Archer becomes an ongoing vigil and goes after the most responsible - Master Dargus. But even with the help of guest star Shadowman, the Archer series has finally returned!



MAGNUS ROBOT FIGHTER™ NEXUS™ #3 (OF 3)

By Boren, Rude and Martin
\$2.95 U.S./\$3.90 Canadian

This epic crossover event comes to its grand conclusion as Magnus and Nexus struggle to liberate North America, featuring a great story and gorgeous art, in tribute to Ross MacKenzie.



RAJ AND THE FUTURE FORCE™ #20

By Bedford and Roman
\$2.25 U.S./\$2.95 Canadian

New regular penciller Dave Ross comes aboard just as the Mad Max tales a turn for the worse. Ross' tight art styles as this story line builds towards a shattering conclusion.



THE M.A.R.D. CORPS™ #17

By Michalek, Lewis and Dixon
\$2.25 U.S./\$2.95 Canadian

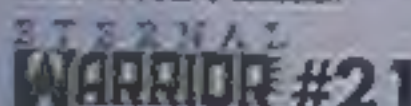
Guest Starring **THE ARMORED™** **VALIANT™** newest and hottest team - the Armors - make an appearance.

ALSO THIS MONTH:



BLOODSHOT™ #15

By VanHook, Parlin, Dixon and Jorde
\$2.25 U.S./\$2.95 Canadian



STERNAL WARRIOR™ #21

By VanHook, Halsted and Drake
\$2.25 U.S./\$2.95 Canadian



HARRINGER™ #28

By Fontenot, Chen, Wendel and Betsart
\$2.50 U.S./\$3.00 Canadian



MAGNUS ROBOT FIGHTER™ #33

By Bedford, Colefiore and Mayo
\$2.25 U.S./\$2.95 Canadian



NINJAK™ #3

By Marini, Quesada and Palmieri
\$2.25 U.S./\$2.95 Canadian



THE SECOND LIFE OF DOCTOR MIRAGE™ #6

By Layton, Chang and Branch
\$2.50 U.S./\$3.00 Canadian



SECRET WEAPONS™ #8

By St. Pierre, Bolinger and Cavallaro
\$2.25 U.S./\$2.95 Canadian



SOLAR, MAN OF THE ATOMS™ #32

By VanHook, Gray, and Palmieri
\$2.25 U.S./\$2.95 Canadian



TUROK, DINOSAUR HUNTER™ #10

By Boren, Morales and Elliot
\$2.50 U.S./\$3.00 Canadian



X-O MANOWAR™ #27

By González, Lewis and Bolinger
\$2.25 U.S./\$2.95 Canadian

COURTESY OF:

Next Issue:

February's issue of the **VALIANT VOICE** gives the wrap-up the **VALIANT FEA BONES CASE**. You learn the ultimate fate of **X-O MANOWAR**'s enemy and meet Tony Tardent, the man behind the new direction for **MAGNUS ROBOT FIGHTER**, as well as **RAJ AND THE FUTURE FORCE**, **RAJ** in **VALIANT VOICE #12**.

See you in 30 days.